

42 – NUTRITION, FOOD & BEVERAGES, DIETARY REQUIREMENTS PROCEDURE

WHY WE HAVE THIS PROCEDURE [PURPOSE]

Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Services are required by legislation to ensure the provision of healthy foods and drinks that meet the requirements for children according to the Australian Dietary Guidelines

At Just Kids Early Education House, we partner with our families to provide education about nutrition and promote healthy eating habits for young children to positively influence their health and wellbeing. Dietary and healthy eating habits formed in the early years are shown to continue into adulthood and can reduce the risk factors associated with adult chronic conditions such as obesity, type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

Just Kids recognises the importance of healthy eating for the growth, development and wellbeing of young children and is committed to promoting and supporting our parents/guardians to make healthy food and drink choices for their children whilst in our care.

We believe in providing a positive eating environment that reflects dietary requirements, cultural and family values, and promotes lifelong learning for children,

SCOPE OF PROCEDURE

This procedure applies to all directors, teachers, educators, students and volunteers.

The Nutrition, Food and Beverages, Dietary Requirements Procedure should be read in the context of the following Just Kids Early Education House policies and procedures.

1. Nutrition, Food and Beverages, Dietary Requirements Policy

PROCEDURE

- Parents are asked to provide one (1) or two (2) pieces of fruit or vegetables each day of attendance for sharing during Morning and Afternoon tea with the child's class group.
- Lunch boxes should contain healthy low sugar and low sodium meals.
- Just Kids does not heat meals but approves of cold cooked meals from home.
- Just Kids asks for all children to have a drink bottle with water in it. The children will have access to the water bottles both indoors and outdoors at all times during the day. Filtered water is also available across the service.
- Just Kids educators engage the children in experiences, conversations and routines that promote relaxed and enjoyable mealtimes and promote healthy lifestyles and good nutrition.
- Each learning room has a daily routine where the children are given the opportunity to experience a range of healthy foods and to learn about food choices from educators and other children. (Meal times are different in each room to support the different age groups.)
- The following foods are not permitted: lollies, chocolate, chips, soft drink, poppers, flavoured milk, cordial, roll ups and or flavoured custards.

In our Kindy and Pre-Prep learning rooms children are introduced to working with "Kiddie Cutter" knives. During morning tea and afternoon tea children are offered the choice of cutting up their own fruit under the supervision with staff.

Children will learn about healthy lifestyles, including nutrition and physical fitness, which is integral to wellbeing and self-confidence. We aim to achieve a strong sense of health and wellbeing supported by good nutrition and an active lifestyle which provides children with confidence, energy and optimism that contributes to their ability to concentrate, cooperate and learn.

Birthday Celebrations

Parents/Guardians are invited to celebrate their child's birthday at Just Kids with his/her classmates this is done during afternoon tea time. Parents are encouraged to send something other than a cake as many children have food allergies and therefore would not be able to participate in the celebration. We also like to help minimize children's intake of sugar.

Other ideas include: Bubbles, balloons (odd shaped ones are fun) birthday hats, a big picture of them as a baby, a special fruit platter (ask to see our fruit platter birthday photo book for some great ideas), popcorn, crackers with carrot and celery sticks etc.

Allergies and Anaphylaxis

Just Kids is an Allergy Aware Education and Care Service.

Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction. It occurs when a person is exposed to an allergen to which they are sensitive. Allergens or trigger substances that may cause anaphylaxis in school-aged children are: peanuts; tree nuts; fish; shellfish; eggs; cow's milk; insect stings; certain medications.

Other potential allergens may include soy, sesame, wheat, seeds, coconut and latex.

While we suggest that parents are mindful of the foods they pack in lunch boxes and the dangers they may pose to children with anaphylactic reactions, it is important for all parents and community members to understand that Just Kids do NOT claim to be a 'NutFree' or "Egg-Free" service. This is consistent with both the Education Queensland Anaphylaxis Guidelines for Queensland, and the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA).

For children with a known severe allergy, the key to the prevention of potentially serious reactions is avoiding exposure to the relevant allergen. The greatest risk for such a child is from accidental exposure to the allergen.

The Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy Inc (ASCIA) Guidelines note four steps in the prevention of food anaphylactic reactions for children's services: 1) obtaining medical information about children who may be at risk 2) education of those responsible for the care of children concerning the risk of food anaphylaxis 3) implementation of practical strategies to avoid exposure to known triggers, and 4) age appropriate education of children with severe food allergies.

As food is bought from home at Just Kids Early Education House, we adopt the following strategies to support our children with allergies:

- sharing of food, containers and utensils is not allowed
- eating areas and utensils are thoroughly cleaned with warm soapy water
- encourage children to wash hands before and after eating.
- Children with anaphylaxis have Medical Health Plans.
- All staff members are trained in anaphylaxis management and in administering an adrenaline auto-injector.

GOVERNANCE - LINKS, REFERENCES OR ASSOCIATED POLICY

- ACECQA: <https://www.acecqa.gov.au/>
- National Quality Framework
- Early Years Learning Framework
- Staying Healthy in Childcare 5th Edition
- Nutrition Australia
- ASCIA - <https://www.allergy.org.au/schools-childcare>
- ASCIA - Examples of risk minimisation strategies for schools, preschools and childcare services https://www.allergy.org.au/images/scc/ASCIA_Risk_minimisation_strategies_table_030315.pdf

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Just Kids Early Education House			
Quality Area:	2.2		
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V1	6/6/14	Linda Green	New policy.
v1.1	23/2/18	Hayley Williams	Updated in accordance with current Nutrition and Food Safe Requirements.
Nominated Supervisor Approval:	2/6/18	Review Date:	2/6/20